

Figure 9 is a cross-sectional view of Figure 2 taken along lines 9-9 thereof.

Figure 10 is a cross-sectional view of Figure 2 taken along lines 10-10 thereof.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring now to the drawings there is shown four lids 21, 21M, 61, and 61M which are compression molded from a suitable plastic material such as medium density polyethylene. Referring to Figures 1, 2, 9 and 10, the lid 21 comprises an upper side having a flat or planar upper surface 21U and a lower side having a flat or planar lower surface 21L. The upper and lower sides are rectangular with four edges 21A, 21B, 21C, and 21D. Formed in the lower surface 21L during the molding operation are two identical elongated, parallel recesses 23 and two identical, square recesses 27 and 29. The recesses 23 have outer edge 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D. The recess 27 has outer edges 27A, 27B, 27C, 27D. The recess 29 has outer edges 29A, 29B, 29C, 29D. Formed in the upper surface 21U during the molding process are two identical, circular recesses 31 and 33 which are generally aligned with the two square recesses 27 and 29 respectively. Also formed on each edge 21A, 21B, 21C and 21D are two spaced apart wedges 37 or lugs which extend outward from the upper surface 21U and taper downward to the lower surface 21L. The wedges 37 may be shaved or cut to the desired shape in order to allow the lid to fit into the top opening of the utility box. Also molded or drilled through the lid 21 is a finger hole 39 for gripping purposes to more easily allow the lid to be fitted to or removed from the utility box.

The purpose of the recesses 23 is to minimize breakage of the lid and the purpose of the recesses 27, 29 and 31, 33 is to receive remote reading equipment in the interior of the utility box and on the top of the lid 21. Apertures will be formed through the lid to provide an opening between the recesses 27 and 31 and to provide an opening between recesses 29 and 33 to allow connection between the interior [an]and exterior equipment.

In one embodiment, the dimensions L1, L2, L3, L4, H1, H2, H3, H4, W1, W2, W3 and D in inches are about 16 ½, 14 ½, 10 ½, 12 ½, 1 ½, 1, 14/16, ¼, 2, 2 ½, 4 ¾, and 5 respectively.

Lids similar to lid 21 were produced but they did not have the recesses 23. If these lids were dropped on a hard surface, the lids would